## LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the dry particles produced in step (d) are screened to obtain said particles having a diameter with the range of about 800 to about 1500 μm.

8. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of active compound selected from the group consisting of peptides, polypeptides, proteins, interferons, TNF antagonists, protein and peptide agonists and antagonists of the immune system, hormones, cytokines and cytokine agonists and antagonists, analgesics, antipyretics, antibacterial and antiprotozoal agents, anti-infective agents, antibiotics, antiviral agents, antifungal agents, antimalarial agents, anti-inflammatory agents, steroids, probiotics and prebiotics, opiate agonists and antagonists, bisphosphonates, anticancer and cytotoxic agents, immunomodulators, antiparasitic agents and pharmacologically acceptable salts and derivatives of each of these active compounds.

9. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of active compound selected from the group consisting of erythropoietin, human growth hormone, metronidazole, albenazole, mebendazole, prazinquantel, clarithromycin, gentamycin, ciprofloxacin, rifabutin, 5-aminosalicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, balsalazide, prednisolone metasulphobenzoate, α-amylase, paracetamol, metformin, cyclophosphamide, cisplatin, vincristine, methotrexate, azathioprine and cyclosporin and pharmacologically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of prednisolone or a pharmacologically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

11. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of metronidazole or a pharmacologically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

12-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 8 wherein the active compound is present in an amount between from more than 0 wt % to about 90 wt% of the component composition.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the rheology modifying agent comprises croscarmellose sodium.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the rheology modifying agent is present in the component composition of step (a) in an amount of at least 5 wt % of said component composition.

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a sugar.

25. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 24 wherein the sugar is lactose monohydrate.

26. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 24 wherein the sugar is present in an amount of between from about 30 to about 50 wt % of the component composition.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a cellulose.

29. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 28 wherein the cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

30. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 28 wherein the cellulose is present in an amount of between from about 35 to about 45 wt % of the component composition.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) consists essentially of prednisolone or a pharmacologically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, a rheology modifying agent, a sugar and a cellulose.

33. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) consists essentially of metronidazole or a pharmacologically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, a rheology modifying agent, a sugar and a cellulose.

34-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently amended) A process for producing particles of controlled size and size distribution for use in a pharmaceutical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) admixing water with a component composition to produce a paste, the component composition comprising at least a rheology modifying agent in an amount effective to form on hydration a matrix with visco-elastic property;

(b) extruding at least a portion of the paste to form extrudate;

(c) spheronising at least a portion of the extrudate to form spheronised particles; and

(d) drying at least a portion of the spheronised particles

wherein the amount of water added in step (a) is ~~controlled~~ admixed in an amount of between from about 180 wt % to about 190 wt % of the component composition so as to provide said spheronized particles in step (d) having a particle size distribution such that from about 80 % to about 98 % of the particles have a diameter from about 800 to about 1500 μm.

41. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 9 wherein the active compound is present in an amount between from more than 0 wt % to about 90 wt % of the component composition.

42. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the rheology modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of starch, hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, crospovidone, sodium starch glycolate and croscarmellose sodium.

43. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of paracetamol or a pharmacologically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

44. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 40 wherein the component composition of step (a) consists essentially of paracetamol or a pharmacologically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, a rheology modifying agent, a sugar and a cellulose.

45. (Currently amended) A process for producing particles of controlled size and size distribution for use in a pharmaceutical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) admixing water with a component composition to produce a paste, the component composition comprising at least a rheology modifying agent in an amount effective to form on hydration a matrix with visco-elastic property;

(b) extruding at least a portion of the paste to form extrudate;

(c) spheronising at least a portion of the extrudate to form spheronised particles; and

(d) drying at least a portion of the spheronised particles,

wherein the amount of water added in step (a) is ~~controlled~~ admixed in an amount of between from about 180 wt % to about 190 wt % of the component composition so as to provide said spheronized particles in step (d) having a particle size distribution such that from about 90 % to about 98 % of the particles have a diameter from about 800 to about 1500 μm.

46. (Currently amended) A process for producing particles of controlled size and size distribution for use in a pharmaceutical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) admixing water with a component composition to produce a paste, the component composition comprising at least a rheology modifying agent in an amount effective to form on hydration a matrix with visco-elastic property;

(b) extruding at least a portion of the paste to form extrudate;

(c) spheronising at least a portion of the extrudate to form spheronised particles; and

(d) drying at least a portion of the spheronised particles,

wherein the amount of water added in step (a) is ~~controlled~~ admixed in an amount of between from about 180 wt % to about 190 wt % of the component composition so as to provide said spheronized particles in step (d) having a particle size distribution such that from about 95 % to about 98 % of the particles have a diameter from about 800 to about 1500 μm.